

LOS ANGELES—Today, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, celebrated 75 years of Social Security during a community forum at the Ricardo Lizarraga Elementary School.

“It is an honor to celebrate this great turning point in our history with a history-making Speaker of the House—my good friend—Nancy Pelosi,” Rep. Becerra said. “Seventy five years ago, President Roosevelt saw millions of Americans living in destitute poverty after a lifetime of work—and he set out to build a better America. By signing the Social Security Act—a bold measure at the time— FDR set in motion a program that has since lifted millions of retired, disabled and widowed Americans out of poverty.”

“As a Senior Member of the House Ways and Means Committee and Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, Xavier Becerra has been leading the fight to protect Social Security,” Speaker Pelosi said. “I am proud to join him and Congresswoman Watson and Chu to celebrate this significant milestone as we continue to renew our commitment to America’s seniors.”

Speaker Pelosi and Rep. Becerra were joined by a diverse crowd of Los Angeles residents—from students to seniors—to discuss their efforts to protect and strengthen Social Security for the next generation. More than 50 million Americans, including workers who have become disabled or are widowed, rely on Social Security’s guaranteed benefits to make ends meet.

“In good times and bad—including 13 recessions—Social Security has never failed to provide a check to a working American family who has paid into the system. In these difficult times, Americans know Social Security is there for them, and the Speaker and I will fight tooth-and-nail to defend it from privatization plans,” Rep. Becerra said.